

LIBERTY AVIATION MUSEUM



Richard "Dick" Toth Collection

CA.16.2

Introduction
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content
Inventory

Introduction

This collection of papers was given to the Liberty Aviation Museum by Joan Toth. Joan Toth was the spouse of Richard S. Toth who was the creator of this collection of papers and media concerning the National Air Races within the continental United States. Permission to use this collection for research purposes was granted by the donor.

Biographical Sketch

This collection features a large archive of documents and media preserved by Richard S. Toth concerning the history of air racing in America, with focus on the former Cleveland National Air Races in Cleveland, Ohio and the Reno National Air Races in Reno, Nevada. Richard S. Toth was born in Cleveland, Ohio on 18 February 1936 and was a lifelong native of the city and region. Mr. Toth was an architect for the Richard E. Jacobs Group of Cleveland. He designed many of the food courts that were built in Cleveland area shopping malls throughout the 1970s-1990s. He also did renderings and architectural designs of the former Jacobs Field, currently Progressive Field, the Cleveland Indians stadium. His employer, Dick Jacobs, owned the Cleveland Indians franchise.

Mr. Toth was an avid modeler and started making aviation models in his childhood during the days when balsa wood and tissue were used for model making. He was a longtime member of the International Plastic Modeler's Association (IPMS). His specific interest in modeling focused on modeling the history of the Cleveland National Air Races, ca. 1929-1949. He was a charter member of the Cleveland-born, Society of Air Racing Historians, that was established in the

1970s. He watched the air races as a child, ca. late 1940s, when they were still in Cleveland. After 1949, the races eventually found a new home in Reno, Nevada. He not only had a great interest in modeling the racing airplanes, but was an amateur historian of the National Air Races in Cleveland and Reno, and chronicled a plethora of its history. Mr. Toth passed away in 2015 due to complications from persistent bouts of pneumonia and debilitating side effects from a severe stroke.

Scope and Content

The collection of papers saved and preserved by Richard “Dick” Toth encompasses documents and media about the National Air Races from the twentieth century into the early twenty-first century in Cleveland, Ohio and Reno, Nevada. The types of documents and media are records on types of racing airplanes, airplane data, and air racing results. There are also technical drawings of race planes, manuscripts (i.e. histories), and digital media, i.e. DVD’s, CD’s and VHS video tapes concerning the National Air Races. Additionally, there are photo albums and loose photographs of racing airplanes, biographies about significant individuals involved with air racing, publications of air racing articles, journals, calendars, and miscellaneous files. The total footprint of the records measure at 6.4 cubic foot. There was no original overall order, other than the creator of this collection organized much of it into three-ring binders with titles. This collection was appraised, processed, and organized as an artificial collection because of its original arrangement for the convenience of description or retrieval. The organization within the collection arrangement is by topic, then alphabetically within each topic and somewhat by chronology. The bulk of the records were arranged and organized into a 1.5” three-ring binders. The creator’s original order has been preserved as much is possible. However, to make a more relevant and sensible order, it has been rearranged by related topics. Therefore, the system of arrangement for this collection is by artificial collection into topics and then alphabetically into three-ring binders, file folders, page protectors and report covers in six letter size, “Banker’s Box” storage boxes. The collection has been repacked into their original storage boxes with regards to their original overall value with regards to future reference and use, so as to conserve on cost.

Inventory

Box 1

Airplanes—Data—Results

The Cobras from Hell: Charles Tucker's Bell P-63C Racers, Warbirds International, Michael O'Leary, June-July 1998. (Blue Report Cover)

Racing the King: Complete History of Bell P-63 Racers, Warbirds International, March-April 2010 (Blue Report Cover)

The Saga of the Double Nickel: Bob Eucker's P-63, #55, Wings Magazine, Vol. 25, No. 1, February 1995 (Blue Report Cover)

F2G Super Corsair (3 Ring Binder)

Gee Bee Model "Z" Super Sportster (Blue Report Cover)

Goodyear Racers, Articles from Air Trails Magazine, 1948-1953 (Blue Report Cover)

Mustang—Fighter to Racer (3 Ring Binder)

Racing Plane Data, 1946-1998 (Comb Binder)

Racing Plane Data, 1946-2000 (Comb Binder)

Air Racing Records, 1909-2008 (Blue Report Cover)

Air Racing Results, Vol. III, 1946-1975 (Comb Binder)

Drawings

Air Race Drawing Collection of Richard S. Toth (3 Ring Binder)

Race Plane Drawings by Taichiro Yamashita (Comb Binder)

Race Plane Drawings by Taichiro Yamashita, Vol. 1 (3 Ring Binder)

Race Plane Drawings by Taichiro Yamashita, Vol. 2 (3 Ring Binder)

Box 2

Histories

“The Bridesmaid” The Story of Earl H. Ortman and The Marcoux-Bromberg Racer (Report Cover)

Famous Pilots (3 Ring Binder)

Oshkosh Air Show Crash (Blue Report Cover)

Racing Plane Histories (Comb Binder)

Reno Air Racing: The Early Years (Autographed by Chuck Lyford) (3 Ring Binder)

A Sense for History: Planes of Fame Museum (3 Ring Binder)

Media

Digital Video Discs (DVD's)

Champions of the Air: Rare Bear

47th Annual National Championship Air Races, 15-19 September 2010

Photos from “Big Bob’s” Attic, Presentation of SARH

Racing Reno: Robert Odegaard

Rare Air Shows & Air Races

Reno Air Races Slideshow, 2003

Reno Air Races, 2007, “Rare Bear” Racing Plane

Reno Air Races, 2011, Race #74

SARH Symposium, May 2008, John Gaertner: Bugatti Air Races

SARH Symposium, May 2008, Dr. Aaron King Jr.: Adventures of an Air Racing Official

SARH Symposium, May 2008, Ed Maloney: 1938 Oakland Air Races

SARH Symposium, May 2008, Gus McLeod: Being Taught to Fly by Roscoe Turner

SARH Symposium, May 2008, Michael Schrott: Pond Racer

Screensaver/Wallpaper: The Kings of Speed, Vol. 1

Screensaver/Wallpaper: The Kings of Speed, Vol. 2

The Story of the 1929-1949 National Air Races

The Unleashed 2005 Yearbook

VHS Video Tapes

National Air Races Cleveland, 1947-1948

Pylon Dusters—1947 National Air Races

Pylon Dusters—1948 National Air Races

People (Biographies)

Interview w/ Richard M. “Dick” Becker, 22 February 2002 (Blue Report Cover)

Cook Cleland—Photos, Autographs, Articles, Biography (Blue Report Cover)

Russell A. Hosler

The Airplane Addict: Walter Soplata, Air & Space Smithsonian, November 2007

Box 3

Photo Albums

Air Race Photo Collection of Richard S. Toth (Large Binder)

Cleveland National Air Show, 2 September 2000 (Large Binder)

Race Plane Photographs—Skyrocket, Duck, Avenger, Skyshark (Large Binder)

2001 Cleveland Air Show (Small Binder)

Gathering of Eagles Air Show, US Aviation Museum (Small Binder)

Prop Aircraft (Small Binder)

USAF Museum (Small Binder)

Misc. Aircraft Photos (Small Binder)

2003 Cleveland Air Show (Small Binder)

Cosmic Wind Photo (Manila Envelope)

Race Plane Photos (SARH Envelope)

Mac's Model Shop & Paper, "Modeling Then & Now" (SARH Envelope)

Race Plane Photos (Small White Envelope)

2011 Air Race Symposium Photo & CD (Walgreen's Envelope)

Box 4

Publications

Articles

Air Racing History—Magazine Article Reprints (Blue Binder)

Air Race Articles (Large White Binder)

Race Plane Restorations & Reproductions (White Binder)

So, Ya Wanna Go Air Racin?: The Science & Technique of Air Racing

Journals

Bent Throttles, Vol 1-21, 1994-2002

Bent Throttles, Vol 22-40, 2002-2007

Bent Throttles, Vol 41-53, 2007-2011

Newsletters

SARH Golden Pylon Newsletters & Membership Rosters, 2001-2009

SARH Golden Pylon Newsletters, 2009-2011

Box 5

Miscellaneous Files

Photographs, Histories, People, Symposiums, etc.

Calendars

Box 6

Cards & Prints

Aircraft Identification Cards (Black Binder)

Profiles, Camouflage, and Markings Identification Cards (White Binder)

Old Aircraft Vending Machine Cards (Brown Binder)

Charles Hubbell Prints

Photographs of Aircraft

Objects in relation to the Richard S. Toth Collection, Accession 2016.24, can be viewed upon request, on site, at the **Liberty Aviation Museum** in Port Clinton, Ohio.